

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE  
REPORT CLASS

DIST: 27 DECEMBER 1983

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: 1. LIVING CONDITIONS FOR WESTERN TECHNICIANS IN THE  
KUZBASS COAL BASIN

2. PRESENCE OF LABOR CAMPS NEAR MYSKI

DOI: MID-LATE 1983

REF:

SOURCE:

TEXT: 1. WAS WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE KUZBASS COAL MINING  
AREA OF THE USSR IS TOO HARSH FOR MOST U.S. PERSONNEL AND WESTERN  
COMPANIES THAT HAVE EQUIPMENT IN THE AREA. JAPANESE OR WESTERN  
EUROPEAN TECHNICIANS ARE EMPLOYED. TO ASSEMBLE POWER MINING SHOVELS  
AT THE SIBIRGINSKI MINE, KOBE STEEL EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 15-25  
TECHNICIANS AND ONLY A FEW OF THEM ARE U.S. CITIZENS. (COMMENT:  
THE MINING SHOVELS ARE BUILT UNDER LICENSE BY KOBE STEEL USING U.S.  
TECHNOLOGY.)

2. WESTERN TECHNICIANS ARE HOUSED IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING IN  
MYSKI, A CITY OF APPROXIMATELY 30,000 PEOPLE. TO REACH MYSKI, A  
VISITOR MUST FLY FROM MOSCOW TO NOVOKUZNETSK BY PROPELLOR DRIVEN AIR-  
CRAFT. THE RUNWAY AT NOVOKUZNETSK IS TOO SHORT TO HANDLE JET AIRCRAFT

Approved for Release  
Date MAR 1983

MSGNO. [REDACTED]  
BUT IN MID-1983 IT WAS BEING LENGTHENED SO THAT IT WILL BE ABLE EVENTUALLY TO RECEIVE JETS. FROM NOVOKUZNETSK, PERSONNEL TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO MEZHDOURECHENSK AND THEN BY AUTOMOBILE TO MYSKI. THE CITY HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF PRE-FABRICATED APARTMENT BUILDINGS, WHICH WHILE ONLY A FEW YEARS OLD, ALREADY ARE VERY SHABBY AND RUN-DOWN IN APPEARANCE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE WESTERNERS RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, LIVING CONDITIONS ARE DIFFICULT.

3. THE STANDARD DIET FOR WESTERN TECHNICIANS CONSISTS OF HORSE- MEAT, CABBAGE, GREEN ONIONS, AND CUCUMBERS. FRUIT, PORK, AND DAIRY PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. EVEN POTATOES ARE INFREQUENTLY AVAILABLE. TWICE EACH WEEK GARBAGE IS COLLECTED BY A LARGE TRUCK, SIMPLY MAKING ITS ROUNDS, AND RESIDENTS MUST CARRY THEIR GARBAGE DOWN TO THE STREET WHEN THE TRUCK PASSES BY.

4. THE SOVIET COAL MINERS WORK HARD BUT THEY LACK THE PROPER TOOLS AND THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF DRINKING AND DRUNKENNESS ON THE JOB. WHILE THEIR EFFICIENCY IS NOT COMPARABLE WITH WESTERN MINING, THEY DO SURPRISINGLY WELL CONSIDERING THEIR EQUIPMENT AND MANAGEMENT. MOST OF THE SHOVEL OPERATORS AND TRUCK DRIVERS ARE MEN AND MOST OF THE SURVEY CREWS FOR THE MINES ARE WOMEN.

5. SOVIET WORKERS HAVE BEEN WARNED TO AVOID ANY FRIENDSHIPS WITH THE WESTERN TECHNICIANS AND THE WESTERNERS HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT ANY FRIENDSHIPS WITH SOVIET WORKERS WILL ONLY RESULT IN PUNISHMENT OF THE FRIENDLY SOVIETS. SOCIAL CONTACTS NEVERTHELESS TAKE PLACE, DESPITE THE THREATS. THERE ARE TWO KGB AGENTS ASSIGNED TO SUPERVISE WORKING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE WESTERNERS AND THE SOVIETS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: OUR SOURCE COULD IDENTIFY THEM ONLY AS FNU ((BARIK)), WHO IS ASSIGNED AS A LIAISON OFFICIAL AND IS REASONABLY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF MINING TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICES. THE OTHER IS CAPTAIN LUCY LNU, WHO IS WITH THE SOVIET ARMY AND WHO HAS SPENT TIME IN EAST GERMANY. BOTH BARIK AND LUCY SPEAK ENGLISH WELL.) ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH THE JAPANESE AND WEST GERMAN WORKERS HAVE TOLD THEIR U.S. COLLEAGUES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DEBRIEFED BY THEIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE USSR.

6. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF LOGGING DONE IN THE MYSKI AREA AND THE LOGS ARE FLOATED DOWN A NEARBY RIVER ON THEIR WAY TO THE SAW MILLS. THESE LOGS ARE CUT BY HAND AND THE WESTERN TECHNICIANS BELIEVE THAT SOVIET LABOR CAMPS ARE IN THE AREA. THIS APPARENTLY IS TRUE BECAUSE IN JUNE 1983 SEVERAL WESTERN TECHNICIANS WERE STOPPED FOR AN IDENTITY CHECK WHILE DRIVING TO THE MINE SITE. THEY WERE STOPPED BY TWO MEN ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. ONE MAN WAS IN A MILITARY UNIFORM AND THE OTHER WAS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. THE SOVIETS COMMENTED THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR 14 ESCAPEES.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]